THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The information published by the United States on Dawood Ibrahim corroborates Government's position regarding his presence and linkages in Pakistan.

(c) The United States has, on several occasions, stated that it has raised the issue of India's list with Parkistan, besides calling on Pakitsan to take steps to end cross-border terrorism. The international community, including the United States, expects that Pakistan would comply with the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 of 2001 and cooperative with other countries in bringing terrorists to justice.

(d) There is no change in Pakistan's position with regard to Dawood Ibrahim or others on the list of 20, which is with the Government of Pakistan for nearly two years.

Russian assistance for Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant

279. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2000-MW Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant being built with Russian assistance in Tamil Nadu, also came for discussion during the recent visit of Indian team to that country;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken at the meet; and

(c) by when the power plant is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) In the discussion held between Hon'ble Prime Minister and President of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin during his visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to Moscow from 11-13 November, 2003, both sides expressed satisfaction at the progress of the construction of two 1000-MW nuclear power units at Kudankulam

(c) The construction of these units is expected to be completed by 2007.

Indians employed in UAE

280. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indians employed in UAE till date, Sates-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a considerable number of Keralities are among the Indians employed and seeking employment in UAE:

(c) if so, whether the hardships faced by the Keralites for getting visas and other related documents has been brought to the notice of the Government;

(d) whether Government received any prposal for setting up of a Consulate of UAE at Cochin to overcome the problem;

(e) if so, whether Government have taken up this matter with the UAE authorities; and

(f) if so, details along with the results therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Approximately one million (including the dependents of those employed) from various States of India live in UAE. State-wise details are not available.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) UAE Government has laid down rules and procedures for approving visa request for all visa seekers including Indian nationals. Any difficulties faced by Indians in processing visas and attestation of documents is brought to the notice of UAE authorities.

(d) No proposal has been received from the UAE Government to set up a Consulate in Cochin.

(e) and (f) It is a sovereign decision of the Government of UAE to determine whether they wish to open a consulate in Cochin and Government of India has no role in the matter.